

## NQDVRS Panel

Joanne Baker

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"Poverty, Violence and Women's Rights:  
...Setting a Global Agenda"

**This international conference is for all who care passionately about improving women's position in the world, who demand justice and full human rights for women everywhere and who believe that a feminist analysis is essential to defining a fairer globalised world.**

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Quote from DVO application:

“I was putting the kids in the car. Pete dragged me out of the car and punched me a couple of times in the stomach. He called me ‘fucking ugly, fucking stupid’ and say ‘You’re nearly due for a beating’. One day he shot the dog with a ratshot. The kids were hysterical because they saw what happened. Kyle said that he had taught it a lesson.”

I often hear how women have been demeaned and humiliated in front of their children. This has informed my practice and my understanding of men’s violence against women in many ways.

I know that you cannot be a perpetrator of domestic violence AND be a good father. Men who use violence teach their children that women are worth less than men, especially if they are ‘ugly’ or ‘stupid’. Women can be ‘due for a beating’. Men who use violence teach boys what to do to women, they teach girls what to expect from men. These men teach children that violence is how you get what you want. It is how you deal with problems and handle stress. And there are few, if any, consequences for violence.

Domestic violence and child abuse occur simultaneously. When men abuse women, they deny children a safe environment in which to grow and learn about the world. When men abuse women they may damage the emotional and physical resources of mothers that are required for the well-being and development of their children.

What I have learned from working with women at DVRS is that the protection of women from male violence is one of the best forms of child protection.